

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1192

AN ACT

To redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park
as “Mount Jessie Benton Frémont”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that Jessie Benton Frémont—

3 (1) was the daughter of United States Senator
4 Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, a leading pro-
5 ponent of the concept of Manifest Destiny that advo-
6 cated for the Nation to expand its borders westward;

7 (2) became fluent in French and Spanish, was
8 a gifted writer, and was at ease in any political dis-
9 cussion;

10 (3) married John C. Frémont, who was as-
11 signed to explore the West;

12 (4) transformed John C. Frémont’s descriptions
13 from his treks into prose that was used by pioneers
14 to guide their route West;

15 (5) traveled to California in 1849 to join her
16 husband at their Mariposa ranch, where gold had
17 been discovered;

18 (6) became involved in John C. Frémont’s 1856
19 campaign for Presidency, which proposed the aboli-
20 tion of slavery, a notion that Jessie Benton Frémont
21 also supported;

22 (7) moved to Bear Valley, California, with her
23 husband John C. Frémont in 1858 and thereafter
24 realized the need to preserve the land that would be-
25 come Yosemite National Park for future generations;

1 (8) entertained men such as Horace Greeley,
2 Thomas Starr King, and United States Senator Ed-
3 ward Baker of Oregon, and urged them to begin a
4 process that ultimately led to the establishment of
5 Yosemite National Park;

6 (9) influenced President Abraham Lincoln to
7 sign the Act entitled “An Act authorizing a Grant
8 to the State of California of the ‘Yo-Semite Valley’
9 and of the Land embracing the ‘Mariposa Big Tree
10 Grove’”, approved June 30, 1864 (commonly known
11 as the Yosemite Grant), the first instance of land
12 being set aside specifically for its preservation and
13 public use by a national government; and

14 (10) set the foundation for the creation of na-
15 tional parks and California State parks through her
16 advocacy for and influence on the Yosemite Grant.

17 **SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF MAMMOTH PEAK AS MOUNT**
18 **JESSIE BENTON FRÉMONT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The peak known as “Mammoth
20 Peak” in Yosemite National Park (located at NPS coordi-
21 nates 37.855° N, -119.264° W) shall be redesignated as
22 “Mount Jessie Benton Frémont” and may be known infor-
23 mally as “Mt. Jessie” in honor of the contributions of Jes-
24 sie Benton Frémont to the approval of the Yosemite
25 Grant.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
2 ulation, document, record, or other paper of the United
3 States to the peak described in subsection (a) shall be con-
4 sidered to be a reference to “Mount Jessie Benton
5 Frémont”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 14, 2014.

Attest:

Clerk.

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